

confirmed. But as exercise becomes tedious and painful, when we make use of it only as the means of health, so reading is too apt to grow uneasy and burdensome when we apply ourselves to it only for our improvement in virtue. For this reason, the virtue and instruction, which we gather from a fable or allegory, is like the health we get by hunting, as we are engaged in an agreeable pursuit that draws us on with pleasure, and makes us insensible of the fatigues with which it is attended.



T H E



T H E
L I F E of Æ S O P.

THE Learned are divided in their sentiments about this great personage; some affirm that he was by birth a *Phrygian*, others that he was a *Thracian*, and others assert, and perhaps with more probability, that he was a *Samian*, and of mean parentage. But however they disagree in this respect, they all unite in opinion, that his person was greatly deformed, that his body was crooked, that he was big-bellied, and badger-legg'd, that he had a flat nose, hunch back, blubber lip, a long mis-shapen head, and that his complexion was so swarthy, that he took his name from it *Æsop* and *Æthiop* (according to their account) signifying the same thing; they also assert